

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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DRAFTED BY ARA/PAN:EJNADEAU:LKB

APPROVED BY ARA/PAN:EJNADEAU

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 031656

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFORPN

SUBJECT:U.S. PANAMA TREATY NEGOTIATIONS: ACTIVITIES REPORT

FOR MINISTER BELL AND GENERAL DOLVIN

I.

THIS IS MESSAGE NO. 1 FROM THE DEPARTMENT APPLICABLE TO
THE FEBRUARY, 1976 NEGOTIATING ROUND IN PANAMA, DESPATCHED
FROM ARA/PAN AT 5:30 PM ON FEBRUARY 9.

II. BRIEFING ITEMS

A. CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS -- AS YET, WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED
A LETTER FROM MRS. SULLIVAN REGARDING CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS
BY THE PANAMACANAL SUBCOMMITTEE. WE UNDERSTAND FROM
STAFF MEMBER MODGLIN, HOWEVER, THAT A LETTER IS EN ROUTE,
SUGGESTING 2/27 AS POSSIBLE DATE.

B. OTHER CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES-HAMILTON COMMITTEE
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REPORT -- CONGRESSMAN LEE HAMILTON, CHAIRMAN OF THE SUB-

COMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS OF THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL

RELATIONS COMMITTEE, IS EXPECTED TO ISSUE A REPORT SOME-TIME NEXT WEEK CONTAINING HIS ASSESSMENT OF THE NEED FOR A NEW CANAL TREATY. HAMILTON'S VIEWS ARE BASED ON HIS TRIP TO PANAMA IN LATE NOVEMBER.

C. SECRETARY'S LATIN AMERICA VISIT -- WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF PREPARING A BILATERAL PAPER FOR THE SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH GENERAL TORRIJOS IN SAN JOSE FEBRUARY 24 AND WILL BE FORWARDING COPY BY SEPTTEL. ARA IS AWARE THAT THE PAPER WILL HAVE TO BE ADJUSTED LATER TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE RESULTS OF THE PRESENT ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS. WE HAVE ALSO PROVIDED SOME GENERAL TALKING POINTS TO BE USED IN THE OTHER STOPS AND MEETINGS DURING THE TRIP.

D. EVANS/NOVAK STORY ON PITY -- AS YOU ARE AWARE, WE HAD PREVIOUSLY ALERTED EMBASSY OF POTENTIAL STORY AND CALLED THIS MORNING TO REPORT THAT IT WAS OUT IN WASHINGTON POST. Q & A WAS PREPARED FOR USE AT NOON PRESS BRIEFING, BUT UNDERSTAND NO QUESTIONS ASKED ON LATIN AMERICA.

E. EDUCATIONAL TV PROGRAM ON PANAMA --"ROBERT MCNIEL REPORT" CALLED TO FIRM UP MINISTER BELL'S PARTICIPATION IN PBS SPECIAL ON PANAMA. WE INFORMED THEM NEGOTIATORS WOULD BE IN PANAMA FOR ABOUT 10 DAYS AND COMPANY DECIDED TO GO AHEAD WITH PROGRAM ANYWAY ON 2/16. WE HAVE OFFERED ASSISTANCE IN PROVIDING BACKGROUND INFORMATION.

III. ACTION ITEMS

NONE INGERSOLL

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NNN

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